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OUTLINE OF PLAN TO FACILITATE MOVEMENT OF MIGRATORY WORKERS  
RECRUITED IN TEXAS FOR EMPLOYMENT IN SUGAR BEET AND RELATED  
CROPS IN THE NORTH CENTRAL AND PLAINS STATES IN 1945

During the past two decades there has been developed a rather clear cut pattern of migratory movement of Latin-American workers from the State of Texas to the North Central and Plains states for employment in the production and harvest of sugar beets and related crops. This movement was developed through the efforts of the sugar beet interests in cooperation with the workers. The movement of workers under this plan declined from a pre-war peak of fifty or sixty thousand to a low of approximately 20,000 in 1944; due to a smaller labor supply in Texas as a result of war influences.

This plan has been developed for the purpose of coordinating the efforts of the sugar beet and related interests, the Federal Extension Service, and the Texas Extension Service in stabilizing this movement and in making as many workers available for sugar beet production as can be spared without seriously impairing agricultural production in Texas.

#### GENERAL POLICY

Under the Farm Labor Supply Act (Public Laws 229 and 529 - 78th Congress) the Cooperative Extension Service of the War Food Administration and the State Agricultural Colleges is responsible for the domestic labor phases of the program "for assisting in providing an adequate supply of workers for the production, harvesting and preparation for markets of agricultural commodities essential to the prosecution of the war." In performing this function the Extension Service is desirous of maintaining established movements of agricultural workers. It aims to supplement, not to displace the efforts of agricultural producers to recruit workers and of agricultural workers to find employment. Both employers and workers are to be encouraged to use their own initiative in making employment arrangements and in solving employment problems. Employment relationships which have proven satisfactory are to be maintained in so far as possible.

The recruitment of migratory workers in Texas to be moved to sugar beet areas in the North Central and Plains States, will be conducted in accordance with State laws applying to such activities, and in accordance with Federal Government regulations relating to the conservation of gasoline and tires.

#### PROCEDURE

The steps to be followed in facilitating the movement of migratory workers from Texas to areas of employment may be briefly stated as follows:

1. Conference between representatives of sugar beet and related interests who hold State recruiting licenses and the Texas State Extension Service, regarding over-all recruitment plans.
2. Consultation between recruiter and county Extension agent regarding recruitment activities in the county. (To be done before recruiting begins)
3. Recruitment of workers by the recruiters employed by the sugar beet and related interests. (After items 1 & 2 have been carried out)



4. Identification of persons recruited as migratory agricultural workers by County Extension Offices. (See operations, Texas Extension Service)
5. Recommendations by Extension Service for mileage and motor fuel needed for cars and trucks to be used in transporting workers to areas of employment.
6. Issuance of certificates of necessity by Office of Defense Transportation, and of gasoline and tire rations by Office of Price Administration.
7. Providing of full employment at prevailing wages for migratory workers in North Central and Plains States, in accordance with plans developed by sugar beet and related interests, and by the respective State Extension Services.
8. Facilitating of return of migratory workers to Texas at the close of the season.

### OPERATIONS

Representatives of the sugar beet and related interests will confer with the Texas State Extension Service regarding plans for the recruitment of migratory workers. Agreement will be reached and observed in regard to the time, at which workers may be moved from specific areas. The assistance and guidance of the County Extension office will be obtained by the recruiters before starting recruitment activities in a county. Representatives of the sugar beet and related interests will do the actual recruitment and will assist persons recruited in obtaining identification from the County Extension office.

The Texas Extension Service will provide general assistance in connection with the recruitment. The State Extension office and the Texas representative of the companies concerned will cooperate closely in seeing that this memorandum is followed.

The Texas Extension Service will furnish each county agent involved and each of the certifying agents with a list of the Latin-Americans who were moved from Texas in 1944 to the North Central and Plains States to do agricultural work. This list was obtained from the Texas Labor Commissioner's Office.

The procedure to be followed by the Texas Extension Service regarding (A) identification of workers and (B) time of movement and place of recruitment will be:

#### A. Identification of Workers

1. Identification will show the area where the worker expects to engage in farm work and only one such identification will be issued to a worker in 1945.

2. If the names of the migratory workers desiring to go to the beet fields are shown on the 1944 list, it will not be necessary for these migratory workers to be identified by the County Agricultural Agent. The Federal



Certifying Agent will be given a blanket clearance by the Extension Service, State Farm Labor Office. The Certifying Agent will furnish the County Agent of the county where the labor originated a list of those whom he certified for out-of-state agricultural work.

3. The workers who are not classified on the 1944 list must be identified, by the County Agricultural Agent in their county of residence, as migratory agricultural workers.

#### B. Time of Movement and Place of Recruitment

1. Workers North of a line drawn East and West, beginning at Del Rio and extending eastward through Austin to the Louisiana State Line, may be moved any time from this date.

2. Workers between that line and a line drawn East and West starting at the Rio Grande River at the North end of Maverick county and North of Zavala, Frio, Atascosa, Karnes, DeWitt, Lavaca, Wharton and Brazoria counties can be moved any time after April 10.

3. The movement of the balance of laborers will be agreed upon by April 10 between the representative of the sugar companies and the Extension Service, depending on crop conditions and labor needs in Texas at that time.

Regardless of the dates set for the moving of migratory workers out of Texas, it is understood that in such cases where certain families are needed and these families can be spared because of their not being employed, the sugar company involved will make their request to their representative in Texas. A copy of the request will be sent to the Extension Service Farm Labor Supervisor in their home state. The sugar company representative in Texas will furnish the Extension Service State Farm Labor Office with the names and addresses of the families to be moved. The Extension Service State Farm Labor Office will request County Agents in those counties where the laborers reside to identify these families for the purpose of certification under the above stipulated conditions.

This identification will show the area where the worker expects to engage in farm work and only one such identification will be issued to a worker in 1945.

The Federal Extension Service will locate appropriate representatives at Dallas, San Antonio and Lubbock during the months of peak activity. Based upon identification provided by county Extension offices, they will make recommendations to O.D.T. and O.P.A. in regard to the mileage and motor fuel needed for trucks and passenger cars to transport workers to areas where they are to be employed.

The State Extension Services in the areas of employment will assist sugar beet and related interests by keeping them informed regarding the program and its operation. Representatives of the sugar beet and related interests will inform the State Extension Services regarding the workers they obtain from Texas. Both employers and Extension will make every effort to insure full employment at prevailing wages and satisfactory living conditions for workers; will encourage workers to return to Texas at the close of the



season and will recommend to O.D.T. and O.P.A. the necessary mileage and motor fuel for the return trip.

Office of Defense Transportation and Office of Price Administration have provided for the movement of migratory agricultural workers in their regulations. They assure full cooperation in the handling of requests for gasoline and tires made by workers migrating from Texas to the North Central and Plains States.

In the operation of the program every effort will be made to maintain public support by giving appropriate consideration to:

- (1) the interests and desires of the workers;
- (2) the labor needs of Texas farmers;
- (3) the labor needs of producers of sugar beets and related crops;
- (4) the conservation of gasoline, tires and transportation equipment and
- (5) the full utilization of available manpower for products essential to the war effort.

#### PERSONNEL

To insure the smooth operation of this program, the sugar beet and related interests, as a group, have retained John D. Reed, 710 Tribune Building, Austin, Texas, to serve as their representative and the Federal Extension Service has assigned operational responsibility in regard to the program to C. C. Randall, Area Director, Recruitment and Placement Division, 524 Post Office Building, Little Rock, Arkansas.

The Texas Extension Service will be represented by Caesar Hohn, State Farm Labor Supervisor, College Station, Texas, and Office of Defense Transportation will be represented by E. P. McCallum Jr., Regional Director, O.D.T., 1031 Mercantile National Bank Building, Dallas (2), Texas, Riverside 5711 Ext. 380, and Office of Price Administration will be represented by Harry Steinberg, Regional Gasoline Rationing Representative, 421 Fidelity Building, Dallas, Texas, in carrying out the operational responsibilities of their respective agencies.

Cooperative Extension Service  
Farm Labor Program  
War Food Administration  
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